

Amendments to the Specification

On page 7, please replace the paragraph starting on line 31 with the following:

In order to provide a cell-friendly surface or surfaces on the sleeves 27 and 81, at least one surface of the outer and inner surfaces and preferably both inner and outer surfaces are treated in the manner described in co-pending application Ser. No. 09/385,692 filed Aug. 30, 1999 (~~A-68346~~). Thus the surface of the polymer can be characterized as having applied thereto a bioactive coating which is cell friendly and which enhances growth of cells thereon. As described therein, a low temperature plasma-deposited layer is provided on the surface of the polymer to functionalize the surface and provide free amine groups thereon. A spacer/linker molecular layer is covalently bonded to the plasma-deposited layer. A peptide coating such as P15 is deposited on the spacer/linker layer. By way of example, the outer surface of the sleeve 27 can be treated first. Thereafter, the sleeve 27 can be inverted by turning it inside out and treating the inside surface which is now outside. Alternatively, both the outside and inside surfaces can be treated at the same time.